THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The Catering charges included in the fare of various classes in the Rajdhani Express trains are fixed keeping in view the standard and quality of the menu, the number of services provided to the passengers between pair of stations, such as morning tea, breakfast, lunch, evening tea/snacks and dinner. The amount of these charges depends upon the srevices rendered.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) These are based on standard menus prescribed for 1st AC and other classes separately.

[English]

Postal Facility in Maharashtra

1396. SHRI RAJABHAU THAKRE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices in Maharashtra where telephone facilities are available and number where such facilities are not available; and

(b) the time by which the same is proposed to be extended by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a)

(i)	Total No. of Post Offices	=	12324
(ii)	No. of Post Offices with Telephone facilitity	=	4524
(iii)	No. of Post Offices without telephone facility	=	7800

(b) Telephone facility will be provided to the remaining post offices on the basis of demand from Postal Authority and on technical feasibility.

[Translation]

Low and High Power Transmitters in UP

1397. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Low and High Power Transmitters operating in Uttar Pradesh at present;

(b) whether any scheme of converting Low Power Transmitters into High Power Transmitters have been received from the State Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) 9 HPTs, 57 LPTs, 20 VLPTs and 4 transposers for relay of DD-I and 3 LPTs for DD-II service are presently operational in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Representations are received, from time to time, from various quarters, including the State Governments, for augmentation of TV service in their respective States. Schemes for expansion of TV service are, however, formulated keeping in view Doordarshan's objective of extending its reach particularly to hitherto uncovered areas in the country. The existing LPT at Lakhimpur in Uttar Pradesh is envisaged to be upgraded into an HPT subject to availability of resources and other infrastructural facilities.

(d) The normal lead time involved in implementation of a project of this nature is about 3-4 years after approval of the scheme by the competent authority.

[English]

Modernisation of Projects

1398. PROF. OMPAL SINGH NIDAR : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to involve private companies or multinationals in the modernisation and expansion work of projects in steel sector; and

(b) if so, the total expenditure to be incurred in modernising all the steel plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) SAIL has undertaken modernisation programmes at its Steel Plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. The modenisation programmes are currently going on. Contracts have been entered into by SAIL with multinationals/private parties/public sector undertakings for various items of work for these modernisation projects. The revival/modernisation programme of IISCO, Burnpur is under consideration. A cumulative expenditure of Rs. 11,946.92 crores is likely to be incurred on the modernisation projects of SAIL at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro.

[Translation]

Train Accidents

1399. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of train accidents occured in the country during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 uptill June, 1997, zone-wise;

(b) the reasons for occurence of higher number of accidents and derailments on Indore-Ujjain and Ujjain-Bhopal route under Western Railways; and

(c) the details of loss of life and property due to such accidents in areas falling under Central and Western Railway during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Information is as under :

Railway	Number of Consequential train accidents during		
	1995-96	1996-97	April-June 1997
Central	54	57	26
Eastern	32	31	7
Northern	50	58	17
North Eastern	28	21	7
Northeast Frontier	23	18	2
Southern	52	40	14
South Central	41	42	14
South Eastern	73	66	23
Western	44	44	6
Metro	1	1	1
Konkan	-	3	1
Total	398	381	119

(b) Accidents on Ujjain - Bhopal and Indore - Ujjain sections were mainly due to track defect and negligence of road users while negotiating unmanned level crossings.

(c) Information is as under :

Railway	No. of persons killed			Cost of damage to Rly. property (Rs. in lakhs)		
	95-96	96-97	Apr-Jun 1997	95-96	96-97	Apr-Jun 1997
Central	20	33	1	591.48	770.59	239.08
Western	11	11	-	90.32	132.89	4.10

Out of Order Telephones in Bihar

1400. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the telephone exchanges at block headquarters of Eastern Champaran district of Bihar are lying out of order;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to modernise or improve the said exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) Steps have been taken to install higher capacity modern electronic exchanges alongwith reliable digital transmission media.

[English]

Granite Deposits

1401. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to find out granite deposits in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) Granite being a minor mineral, the concerned State Governments are responsible for the exploitation of reserves besides, exploration activity. However, in view of the importance assumed by this mineral, Geological Survey of India (GSI) has taken up intensive resource survey for granite in the country.

(b) Approximate State-wise area surveyed by GSI are indicated below :-

Name of State	Approximate area covered in Sq. Km.
Andhra Pradesh	38,000
Assam	125
Bihar	1,855
Gujarat	775
Haryana	105
Karnataka	6,320
Kerala	1,000
Madhya Pradesh	4,626
Maharashtra	2,300
Meghalaya	190
Orissa	1,200
Rajasthan	17,900
Tamil Nadu	4,950
Uttar Pradesh	3,050
West Bengal	1,000

[Translation]

Trains Introduced on Ajmer-Khandwa Route

1402. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of new rail services introduced on metre gauge rail route of Ajmer-Khandwa after March 31, 1991, till date; and

(b) the position of Engines and Coaches provided for this purpose during the last five years?